

June 18, 2011, Dori Carlson will become the first female president of the American Optometric Association, AOA. Dori, who has two offices in North Dakota, was honored in 1994 as the North Dakota Young Optometrist of the Year and in 2003 as the Optometrist of the Year. She was also the first female president of the North Dakota Optometric Association.

Dori's No. 1 priority is to advocate the importance of having young children undergo vision testing. She tells parents all over the country about "vision" problems faced by young children, and that it is easier to address these problems if discovered early. She regularly highlights President Obama's statement regarding the need to review vision of young children:

No child should be falling behind at school because he or she can't . . . see the blackboard.

This is President Obama, February 4, 2009.

As a result of Dori's emphasis on the importance of children's vision, there continues to be an increase in vision testing. This means that fewer children are having vision problems. For all parents, we thank Dori for her dedication and congratulate her on becoming the new AOA president.●

UH-72 LAKOTA LIGHT UTILITY HELICOPTER

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to speak today to honor the inception of the UH-72 Lakota Light Utility Helicopter into the active fleet of the South Dakota National Guard D Company 1/112th Security and Support Battalion. On May 15, a ceremony will be held at the Crazy Horse Monument in the Black Hills of South Dakota—the traditional homeland of the proud Lakota Sioux for whom this aircraft has been named. After nearly a decade of development, the Light Utility Helicopter program offers the UH-72 Lakota as a state-of-the-art aircraft which will provide medical support to members of our military.

The UH-72 Lakota stands as a defining symbol of the continued partnership between the U.S. military and the Sioux people. Native Americans from all reaches of this Nation have proven, time and again, their willingness to serve in the U.S. military to protect our freedoms. In fact, members of Native American tribes like the Lakota have historically served, and continue to serve, at a higher per-capita rate than any other ethnic group in America. In its medical evacuation, homeland security, and drug enforcement aircraft capacities, I know the UH-72 Lakota will do this legacy proud, wherever it serves.

Per Department of Defense regulations, military helicopters are named after Native American tribes, and the UH-72 joins the ranks of other distinguished service helicopters like the H-60 Black Hawk, the H-64 Apache, the

H-66 Comanche, and many others. Naming the UH-72 after a tribe with such a distinct and honorable history of bravery and service is a tribute to Native American heritage as potent as the service the aircraft itself will provide.

I commend the developers of this new aircraft for their hard work in the design and testing phases, as well as the pilots and crews whose input so critically enhanced the UH-72 as a finished product. I was pleased to have the opportunity to view the Lakota up close at a Rosebud Pow Wow a few years ago. I wish the pilots and crews of each of the D Company 1/112th Security and Support Battalion, as well as those serving in other regions, the best of luck with this new aircraft. ●

RECOGNIZING MAINE COMMERCIAL TIRE, INC.

● Ms SNOWE. Mr. President, next week marks the 48th annual celebration of National Small Business Week, a tradition started in 1963 under President Kennedy to highlight the critical role small businesses play in our society. This year, despite a difficult economy struggling to rebound, we can be proud of our Nation's nearly 30 million small firms that are working to move our Nation forward.

In light of this, today I commend and recognize Maine Commercial Tire, MCT, a commercial tire servicer and supplier in my home State of Maine. Recently, MCT's owners James McCurdy and James Lynch were named Maine's 2011 Small Business Persons of the year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. This is a highly deserved honor as both individuals' leadership has allowed MCT to prosper in a struggling and tumultuous economy.

Maine Commercial Tire began in 1990 in the town of Hermon, roughly 15 minutes from Bangor. Their goal was to supply new tires and retreaded tires while providing outstanding service to the many trucking businesses in Maine and portions of New Hampshire. Since that time MCT has grown substantially from 18 employees to 59 employees, and expanded by opening three additional locations across the State, in Augusta, Scarborough, and Lewiston. The company now retreads roughly 35,000 tires each year.

MCT is recognized both locally and globally for its commitment to excellence. The International Organization for Standardization, ISO, develops and sets high global standards that a variety of international companies strive to achieve in order to become certified in their field. In 2000, MCT became the first—and thus far, only—ISO 9002 certified tire dealer and independently owned retread shop in the United States. In addition to demonstrating MCT's commitment to excellence, this certification shows that American small businesses can truly compete in a global marketplace with hard work and perseverance.

As a result of their accomplishments at MCT, Mr. McCurdy and Mr. Lynch are receiving the prestigious Small Business Person of the Year award. This award takes into account a variety of criteria including: staying power as an established business, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial performance, innovativeness of product or service offered, response to adversity, and contributions to community-oriented projects. This is truly a deserved honor for Mr. Lynch and Mr. McCurdy. Their hard work and dedication has resulted in MCT being regarded as a nationwide leader in both the supply and servicing of truck tires and retreaded truck tires. Msrs. McCurdy and Lynch were honored at a luncheon in Maine on May 5, and will also be recognized next week during National Small Business Week here in Washington.

It will take small businesses to lead us out of our economic morass. That is why I am thankful for companies such as Maine Commercial Tire, which have persevered and made great strides over the past 21 years. I thank Mr. McCurdy and Mr. Lynch for their leadership and everyone at MCT for their dedication to excellence, and offer my best wishes for success in their future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. PHILLIP O. BARRY

● Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I, with my colleague Senator BINGAMAN, wish to recognize Dr. Phillip O. Barry on the occasion of his retirement from a distinguished career serving higher education institutions in our home state of New Mexico and elsewhere.

A former Fulbright scholar, Dr. Barry has spent the past 36 years working in community colleges to improve learning opportunities for New Mexicans, Iowans, and New Jerseyans. Access to quality higher education makes all the difference for our children and our economy. In order to secure the future of the Nation, we must provide the best education possible. Innovative administrators like Dr. Barry play a vital role in achieving this important goal. As a community college president, Dr. Barry devoted 24 years to leading these institutions into the 21st century and helping them expand to meet the needs of more students and an evolving economy.

In his 15 years at Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari, NM, Dr. Barry transformed Mesalands from a technical school into a community college, including leading the college through a rigorous accreditation process. He established the college's foundation in order to ensure the financial security of the school for the future. Through Dr. Barry's leadership and foresight, Mesalands Community College created such innovations as its Dinosaur Museum, the North American Wind Research and Training Center, and an intercollegiate rodeo program.